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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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07/07/2003

Joseph A. Gutierrez

200300331-1

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04/14/2006

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EXAMINER

LEE, KYUNG S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Period for Reply

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Paragraph [0012] of the current specification, switch being referenced, as 27 should be corrected to 32.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruner (US Pat. 5,569,889) in view of English (US Pat. 5,481,074).

Bruner teaches a button for engaging an electrical switch comprising:

a button post (Please see figs. 6-8.) that transmits a vertical motion to the switch 148;

an alignment post 126 (comprising of 126 and portion of key by reference number 114 that comes in contact with the switch

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148) that registers against the switch 148 and reduces the lateral motion of the button; and

a runner 140 that connects the button to a frame 150 (via 146) and include reinforcement 154 that stiffens the vertical motion.

Bruner teaches the claimed invention except for the runners being at least two. English teaches a button for engaging an electrical switch having at least two runners 102 and 104 (please see fig. 5) for the purpose of connecting wider keys (col. 6, line 49) to a frame 170. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide the button key of Bruner with at least two runners for connecting the button to the frame as taught by English, since the additional runners would provide the button key of Bruner with better mechanical stability.

Regarding claims 2 and 6-7, Bruner discloses a keyboard.

Regarding claim 4, the post, the runners and the reinforcement are formed from plastic.

Regarding claim 5, it would have been obvious to mold the reinforcement along with the two runners, since molding the pieces at the same time would reduce manufacturing time.

Regarding claim 8, Bruner and English disclose multiplicity.

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Regarding claims 10-13, please see discussion above.

Regarding claims 14 and 15, means for reducing lateral motion, means for stiffening, means for reducing wobbling and means for reducing dead spot are disclosed by Bruner in view of English.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reinforcement with a rectangular panel and two supporting ribs located on diagonals of the panel are claimed. Claimed structure, in combination with the claimed structure of the base claims, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard

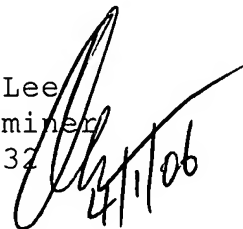
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K. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Richard K. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832



4/1/06